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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### SEISMIC UPGRADE MAKES VANCOUVER HERITAGE SCHOOL SAFER

VANCOUVER – Vancouver-Quilchena MLA Colin Hansen joined Vancouver school district officials and community members today at Kerrisdale elementary school to celebrate the completion of \$8.5 million in seismic upgrades that make the school safer in the event of an earthquake.

"This school is designated a heritage building. It has both our history and our future – our kids – in one building," said Hansen. "I'm pleased to see that the seismic work at Kerrisdale elementary school is complete and that a safe and secure building is here for our children."

The seismic upgrade features an improved gymnasium roof, soil anchors, shear walls, and reinforced connections between the shear walls and the foundation and the roof. The upgrades help fulfil election platform and throne speech commitments.

"The upgrade at Kerrisdale is an example of how our government is working to ensure the safety of students and staff," said Education Minister Shirley Bond. "The Kerrisdale seismic upgrades are part of the largest investment in student safety ever made by a government in this province."

This Kerrisdale seismic project is one of several undertaken prior to government's \$1.5-billion commitment to upgrade schools, under the seismic mitigation program announced in November 2004.

Construction started in 2005 and was completed in two phases. Kerrisdale elementary is in addition to 16 Vancouver district schools approved for structural seismic upgrades totalling \$87.5 million. Since 2001, the Province has invested \$71 million on 24 capital projects in the Vancouver school district.

"My three kids went to Kerrisdale, so I'm really pleased to see this done," said Vancouver school board chair Ken Denike. "And it was done to perfection on a very tight schedule. Our planning people really came through."

Since 2001, the Province has spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 31 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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